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Soviet Zone of Germany

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TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 June and 6 July 1950

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DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 10 August 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
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1. The Funker Kaserne on the eastern edge of the Cottbus (N 52/A 57) airfield seemed to be occupied beyond capacity on 20 June 1950. Troops were even quartered in the attic rooms. The soldiers, between 17 and 20 years old, wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and a few wore black-bordered light-blue epaulets.

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drilling in the barracks yard.

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2. The Artillerie Kaserne on August Bebelstrasse was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia, some without any insignia, and some with radio insignia. The windows of the installation were about half lighted on the evening of 20 June 1950. Half-track vehicle entered the billeting area towing a gun of about 150 mm caliber and carrying eight soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Motor vehicles

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were seen there.

3. A 11 windows of the barracks south of Sachsendorf were illuminated during the evening of 20 June 1950. Troops stationed there estimated at about 2,500, wore red-bordered black epaulets some with and without artillery, some with radio insignia, and some with tank insignia. An officer and 16 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia rode truck from the Cottbus railroad station to the billeting area on 16 June 1950. Five guns of 120 to 150 mm caliber with crews of 12 men were observed in the training area east of the installation

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on 26 June 1950. Combat training, involving not less than 500 troops, was repeatedly observed in the wooded area south of the autobahn.

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4. Four newly erected wooden antenna poles, arranged in a square and about twice as high as telegraph poles, were seen in the area west of the barracks at Dissenchen. Each pole was held by several guy wires attached to the upper third of the poles. Each pole was topped by a metal ring of a diameter corresponding to the poles. The installation housed no more than 100 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with radio insignia. No training activity was observed.

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5. The Hermann Loens Kaserne housed a higher headquarters staffed by not less than 150 officers ranking from captain up to and including colonel. Most of them wore red-bordered black epaulets and some black-bordered crimson epaulets, black-bordered black epaulets and red-bordered green epaulets. Tank, artillery, radio and motor transport insignia were noticed. Four captains with baggage got off of the streetcar and reported to the guard room on 26 June 1950. The officers of the headquarters were repeatedly seen in the other barracks of the post, particularly the barracks at Sachsendorf. The headquarters occupies rooms in the two buildings which are opposite the Hermann Loens Kaserne. Officers with dependents were billeted in the houses north of the installation. The two barracks buildings at the side of the Hermann Loens Kaserne housed a tank and SP artillery unit of about 500 men. Personnel of the unit wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank insignia. The noise of troops drilling and the reports of rifles or submachine guns were heard from the southern section of the installation.

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6. The Hermann Loens Kaserne and the Sachsendorf Kaserne seemed to be lightly occupied on 6 July 1950. No tanks were seen at the tank repair shop in Hermann Loensstrasse.

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7. The Polizei Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse housed an artillery unit presumably belonging to the unit in the Remonte Kaserne because there was much traffic between the two installations. Soldiers were seen drilling with four guns of about 76 mm caliber near the Polizei Kaserne.

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8. Ten officers and four units of 75 men stood in the yard of the Remonte Kaserne on 6 July 1950. Six officers stood in front.

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9. According to an innkeeper the unit from the Dissenchen Kaserne was at the Weisswasser training grounds. Officers who came to Dissenchen for a visit complained about the poor billets and water conditions in Camp Weisswasser. Truck [] carrying five officers followed by an infantry platoon on foot, left the installation toward the training area. It was said that the four **Russian** families still living in Dissenchen were soon to be repatriated. *

* [] Comment. The information of two sources sometimes differs during approximately the same period of observation. It is believed that elements of the component units of the 9th Mecz Div in Cottbus went to the Weisswasser troop training grounds in May 1950. Information on this was also supplied in May 1950. []

[] The continuous change in the occupation of the Cottbus billeting areas is probably due to the arrival of recruits from the U.S.S.R. in June 1950, which was also observed in numerous other military posts in the Soviet Zone of Germany, and the arrival from the Weisswasser troop training grounds of soldiers due for shipment to the U.S.S.R. for demobilization.

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